



006329.00005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gredley, Sarah
Attorney Docket No.: 006329.00005
Serial No.: 10/521,139 ✓
Filing Date: 12 January 2005
For: Picture Frame

**SECOND SUBMISSION OF PETITION TO REVIVE AN
UNINTENTIONALLY ABANDONED
APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.137(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RECEIVED

17 AUG 2005

Legal Staff
International Division

Sir:

Applicant respectfully submits for the second time a petition under 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.137(b) to revive PCT application PCT/GB03/02228 of which the above-captioned application is the corresponding U.S. National Phase. The application was unintentionally abandoned on November 23, 2004, for failure to timely file a U.S. national phase application claiming the benefit of the PCT application PCT/GB03/02228. The petition to revive was originally filed on January 12, 2005.

A call to the Office of Petitions on August 4, 2005 indicated the Petition to Revive had been misplaced, and a second submission was requested. A complete copy of the original petition is enclosed, including a copy of the Express Mail Receipt and a postcard stamped by the PTO mailroom showing the January 12, 2005 original

Petition To Revive

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28 NOV 2005

Legal Staff
International Division


filing date of the petition to revive. As instructed, this second submission is being sent to the general mailing address.

In view of the original filing, Applicant submits that she has complied with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.137(b) and respectfully requests revival of the above-captioned application, which was unintentionally abandoned on 23 November 2004. In that regard, the enclosed papers authorize the required petition fee to be charged to the undersigned's deposit account.

A telephone call is requested if any additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10 August 2005



Peter D. McDermott (Reg. No. 29,411)
Attorney for Applicants
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Enclosures:

- Original Petition To Revive filed on 12 January 2005 (Exhibit 1)
- Copy of Express Mail Receipt as Proof of Filing on 12 January 2005 (Exhibit 2)
- Copy of Stamped Postcard as Proof of Filing on 12 January 2005 (Exhibit 3)
- Copy of U.S. National Phase Application as Filed on 12 January 2005 (Exhibit 4)



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(B&W No. 006329-00005)

Applicant: Sarah Gredley
Serial No.: 10/521,139
Filing Date: January 12, 2005
Title: Picture Frame

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Express Mail Receipt No. EV641701313US
Date of Deposit: August 10, 2005

I hereby state that the following:

- ☒ Second Submission of Petition to Revive with Enclosures as listed on Petition
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Brigid Laffey

August 10, 2005
Dated

Brigid Marie Laffey
Signature of person mailing above-identified papers



006329.00005

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Gredley, Sarah	Attorney Docket No.: 006329.00005
Serial No.: PCT/GB03/02228	Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date: 23 May 2003	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
For: Picture Frame	

**PETITION TO REVIVE AN UNINTENTIONALLY ABANDONED
APPLICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.137(b)**

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition to revive the above-captioned unintentionally abandoned application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.137(b). The above-captioned application was unintentionally abandoned on November 23, 2004, for failure to file a U.S. national phase application claiming the benefit of the above captioned PCT application.

To satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. § 1.137(b):

- (1) Applicants submit herewith a continuation application (assigned attorney docket no. 006329.00005); the application includes a preliminary amendment and application data sheet making a priority claim to PCT/GB03/02228.

Petition To Revive

Page 1 of 3

- (2) Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the requisite fee of \$750 for this petition to our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.
- (3) Applicants submit that the delay in filing this required reply from the due date for the action (November 23, 2004) until the filing of this petition today was unintentional.
- (4) No terminal disclaimer is required because the application was filed after June 8, 1995.

Applicants respectfully request grant of this petition in view of the following:

Facts

1. Applicants filed the above captioned PCT application on 23 May 2003 claiming the benefit of prior Great Britain application No. GB 0211893.3 filed 23 May 2002. (Exhibit A; cover page of published PCT application)
2. The PCT application designated the United States. (Exhibit A)
3. The PCT application was prepared and filed for the Applicants in Great Britain by the Birmingham, England office of the Barker Brettell firm. Following normal PCT proceedings, the Barker Brettell firm timely requested instruction from the Applicants with respect to initiating national phase applications corresponding to the PCT application. The Applicants failed to respond with timely instructions to the Barker Brettell firm due to misunderstandings regarding PCT practice on the part of the Applicants. More specifically, the Applicants reasons for not providing instructions earlier to Barker Brettell to initiate the U.S. national phase application was a combination of a temporary lack of funds and a mistaken belief that the U.S.

Petition To Revive

national phase could be entered later. Upon being informed of the passage of the due date, the Applicants promptly provided instructions to the Barker Brettell firm to take steps to revive the PCT application and initiate the U.S. national phase application claiming the priority benefit of the PCT application. The Barker Brettell firm, in turn, promptly provided corresponding instructions to the undersigned.

4. The undersigned promptly prepared this petition to revive the PCT application and concurrently filed a corresponding U.S. continuation application.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that they have complied with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.137(b) and respectfully request revival of the above-captioned application, which was unintentionally abandoned on 27 November 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 12 January 2005

Enclosures:

U.S. National Phase Application (docket no. 006329.00005)
Fee Transmittal Letter
Postcard

Petition To Revive

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- (71) Applicant and
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- (74) Agent: BARKER, Brettell; 138 Hagley Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B16 9PW (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
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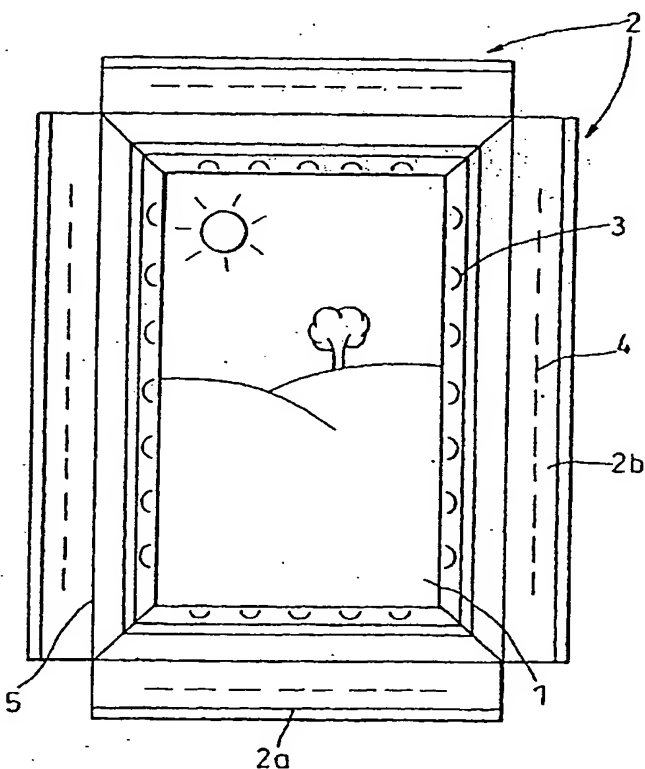
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Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: PICTURE FRAME



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture (1) which comprises one or more framing portions (2). Each framing portion (2) is made from a flexible material. Each framing portion (2) is adapted so as to have a first position in which it can be freely removed from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape, by means such as flaps (3) and corresponding slits (4). The apparatus may be provided with an integral packaging means. Also provided is a framed picture (1) provided with four framing portions (2) such that each edge of the picture (1) is provided with a framing portion (2).

WO 03/099078 A2

PICTURE FRAME

The present invention relates to framing and hanging pictures.

5 It is well known to frame pictures, including prints, posters and photos, to improve the aesthetics of the picture and to provide means by which the picture may be hung on a wall. However, many of the frames currently available are relatively expensive due to the precise work involved in producing a suitably shaped frame. Further, in order to
10 provide support for the picture to enable it to be hung on a wall, frames are generally produced from rigid materials such as wood and metal, and accordingly storage and transportation of frames is limited by the fixed shape of the frame. This affects not only the frame itself as originally produced but also the framed picture if it is later desired to transport the
15 framed picture.

Accordingly, there is a need for a picture framing and hanging system which is relatively inexpensive and easy to transport.

20 According to a first embodiment, the present invention provides an apparatus for framing and/or hanging pictures which comprises one or more framing portions, wherein the or each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is adapted so as to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other
25 conformations and a second position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

In the first position, the or each framing portion can easily be stored and transported. As the framing portion is made from flexible material, it can
30 easily be bent, rolled or folded as required to enable ease of storage or transportation.

In the second, secured position, the or each framing portion has a fixed shape which is three-dimensional. This provides the or each framing portion with a degree of rigidity and strength that results in the or each framing portion being able to provide sufficient support for a picture in order to enable it to be hung on a wall.

Preferably, the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions. When one framing portion is provided, it should be of a size such that in use it can be placed along the top edge of the picture. Preferably it is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.

When two framing portions are provided, they should be of a suitable size, such that in use one can be placed along the top edge of the picture and the other can be placed along the bottom edge of the picture. Preferably they are of a size such that in use they run along all or substantially all of the length of the top and bottom edge of the picture respectively.

When four framing portions are provided, they should be of a size such that in use one can be placed along the top edge of the picture, one can be placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one can be placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one can be placed along the right hand edge of the picture. Preferably they are of a size such that in use they run along all or substantially all of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively. Preferably in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets, and is most preferably secured to, an adjacent end portion of the adjacent framing portion. This assists in providing the apparatus with suitable strength and rigidity to support a picture when hung on the wall as well as increasing the aesthetics of the apparatus.

It is preferred that one or more of the framing portions is provided with suitable means such that it may be hung from a wall. For example, one or more holes or other such recesses may be provided. This allows the framing portion to be hung from a wall by means of picture hooks, nails, screws or the like protruding from the wall. Clearly such holes or recesses should be located along the length of the framing portion such that when they are used to hang the framing portion from a wall the framing portion hangs straight. For example, one hole may be provided at the centre of the length of the framing portion or two holes may be provided equidistant from the centre of the length of the framing portion. Any other suitable means as known in the art for hanging frames from walls may also be used.

Preferably, the framing portion is provided with securing means for securing the portion in its second, secured position in the shape of a three-dimensional shape. Preferably, releasable securing means are used. Releasable securing means as known in the art may suitably be used, for example the framing portion may be provided with a flap and corresponding slit system. Any suitably shaped and sized flaps may be used; the flaps may be, for example, semi circular, triangular or rectangular. The framing portion could alternatively be suitably provided with corresponding sets of male and female components such as press studs that may be releasably secured together. Preferably, the securing means are spaced regularly along the length of the framing portion.

Preferably, the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in the shape of a regular three-dimensional shape. For example, the or each framing portion may be a triangular prism, circular prism or rectangular prism shape when in its second, secured position. When there is more than one framing portion, each framing portion may be the same or different shape in its second, secured

position; preferably they are all of the same shape. The or each framing portion may be provided with score lines to assist the folding of the portion into the three-dimensional shape.

- 5 The or each framing portion may be made of any suitable flexible material. For example, the or each framing portion may be made of a flexible plastics material such as a polypropylene or a flexible material such as cardboard.
- 10 In use, the or each framing portion may be attached directly to the picture which it is framing. Accordingly the apparatus of the first embodiment may further comprise a picture to which the or each framing portion may be attached. Alternatively, the or each framing portion may be attached to a backing portion, with the picture being framed being secured to the
- 15 backing portion. Accordingly, the apparatus of the first embodiment may further comprise a backing portion, for example a piece of cardboard or paper, to which the or each framing portion may be attached.
- 20 The or each framing portion may be attached to the picture or to the backing portion by any suitable means, for example by means of adhesive. The or each framing portion of the apparatus of the first embodiment may therefore be provided with attaching means, for example a layer of cured or substantially cured adhesive covered with a protective removable layer which can be removed when adhesion is required.
- 25 The or each framing portion is attached to the picture or backing portion at the part of the framing portion which in the second, secured position, is the base of the three-dimensional shape. The picture with attached framing portion(s) or the backing portion with attached framing portion(s)
- 30 can easily be stored or transported by placing the or each framing portion into its first, unsecured position. Due to the flexibility of the material of

the or each framing portion, the or each framing portion together with any picture or backing portion can be rolled up so as to fit in, for example, a tubular packaging for storage or transportation.

- 5 A packaging means may be provided integrally with the apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture. The packaging means may be made from a flexible material and is adapted to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is formed into a package.

10

Preferably the flexible material is one of the materials as described in relation to the framing portions. The packaging means is preferably secured in the second position by any suitable releasable securing means. For example a zip (metal or plastic), male and female connectors or a flap

15 and corresponding slit system.

20

The package formed is preferably tubular, the flexible material of the packaging means is preferably releasably or permanently secured to the framing portions. The flexible material of the packaging means may in the first position form a backing portion for the framing portion(s), and in a second position form a tubular package around the framing portions for storage and transportation.

25

When the picture with attached framing portion(s), or the backing portion with attached framing portion(s) which may have a picture secured thereto, is to be hung on a wall, the or each framing portion is placed into its second, secured position by folding the flexible material of the framing portion into the three-dimensional shape and securing it in this position by means of the securing means provided. If the framing and/or hanging

30 apparatus is integral with a packaging means then the packaging means is

placed in the first position before the or each framing portion is placed in the first position.

5 According to a second embodiment of the present invention, a framed picture is provided which comprises one or more framing portions as described above attached to one or more edges of a picture. The framed picture may suitably comprise one framing portion attached to the top edge of the picture, or two framing portions attached to the top and bottom edges of the picture respectively, or four framing portions
10 attached to the top, bottom, left hand and right hand edges of the picture respectively.

The or each framing portion of the framed picture is, in use, in its second, secured position such that the or each edge of the picture having
15 a framing portion attached is provided with a frame border in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

At least one of the framing portions of the framed picture is provided with means for hanging the picture from a wall as described above.
20 Preferably, at least the framing portion attached to the top edge of the picture is provided with such hanging means.

Preferably, the framed picture is provided with four framing portions, such that each edge of the picture is provided with a framing portion.
25

If it is desired to store or transport the framed picture of the second embodiment, the or each framing portion may be placed in its first, unsecured position by unsecuring the securing means and unfolding the portion so that it is in a substantially flat configuration. The framed
30 picture can then be rolled up for easy storage or transportation. Any

packaging means can be secured in its second position as a package for the framed picture.

5 The present invention also provides a method of framing a picture, which method comprises attaching one or more framing portions as described above to a picture, with the or each framing portion being located at an edge of the picture.

10 The present invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawings, in which:

15 Figure 1 is a diagram showing a picture framed using an apparatus according to the present invention, with the framing portions in their first, unsecured position; and

Figure 2 is a diagram showing the picture of figure 1 with the framing portions in their second, secured position.

20 Figures 1 and 2 show a picture 1 framed using a framing apparatus comprising four framing portions 2. The framing portions 2 are attached to the edges of the picture 1, with two shorter framing portions 2a being attached to the top and bottom edges of the picture and two longer framing portions 2b being attached to the left hand and right hand edges of the picture. The shorter framing portion 2a attached to the top edge of
25 the picture is provided with a hole at the centre of its length, on the back, to allow the picture 1 to be hung from a wall.

30 The framing portions 2 are provided with semi-circular shaped flaps 3 and corresponding slits 4, and with scored lines 5. When the flaps 3 are not secured in the slits 4, as shown in figure 1, the framing portions 2 are flexible and may be substantially flat or may be bent or rolled.

Accordingly, in this first, unsecured, position the framed picture may be rolled up to allow ease of storage or transportation.

When the framing portions 2 are folded along the scored lines 5 and the
5 flaps 3 secured in the slits 4, as shown in figure 2, the framing portions form rectangular prism shaped frame edges around the picture 1. Accordingly, in this second, secured, position the framed picture is well supported and aesthetically pleasing, and may be hung from a wall using
10 the hole provided in the back of the slot framing portion 2a located along the top edge of the picture 1.

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for framing and/or hanging pictures which comprises one or more framing portions, wherein the or each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is adapted so as to have a first, unsecured, position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second, secured, position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein one framing portion is provided and it is of a size such that in use it is placed along the top edge of the picture.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein two framing portions are provided and they are of a suitable size, such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture and the other is placed along the bottom edge of the picture.
6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of one of the top or bottom edge of the picture.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein four framing positions are provided, and they are of a size such that in use one

is placed along the top edge of the picture, one is placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one is placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one is placed along the right hand edge of the picture.

- 5 8. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of one of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively.
- 10 9. The apparatus according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets an adjacent end portion of an adjacent framing portion.
- 15 10. The apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein one or more of the framing portions is provided with suitable means such that it may be hung from a wall.
- 20 11. The apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the or each framing portion is provided with securing means for securing the portion in its second, secured position in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.
- 25 12. The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the securing means are releasable securing means.
13. The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with a releasable securing means comprising a flap and corresponding slit system.

11

14. The apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in the shape of a regular three-dimensional shape.

5 15. The apparatus according to any preceding claim further comprising a picture to which the or each framing portion is attached.

16. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 14 further comprising a backing portion to which the or each framing portion is
10 attached.

17. The apparatus according to any preceding claim wherein a packaging means is provided integrally with the apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture.

15 18. The apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the packaging means is made from a flexible material and is adapted to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is formed into a
20 package.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the packaging means is secured in the second position by suitable releasable securing means.

25 20. The apparatus according to any of claims 17 to 19 wherein the flexible material of the packaging means in the first position forms a backing portion for the or each framing portion, and in a second position forms a package around the or each framing portion for storage and transportation.

21. A framed picture which comprises one or more framing portions according to claim 1 attached to one or more edges of a picture.

22. A framed picture according to claim 21 wherein the or each framing portion of the framed picture is, in use, in its second, secured position such that the or each edge of the picture having a framing portion attached is provided with a frame border in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

23. The framed picture according to claim 21 or claim 22 wherein the framed picture is provided with four framing portions, such that each edge of the picture is provided with a framing portion.

24. A method of framing a picture, which method comprises attaching one or more framing portions as described above to a picture, with the or each framing portion being located at an edge of the picture.

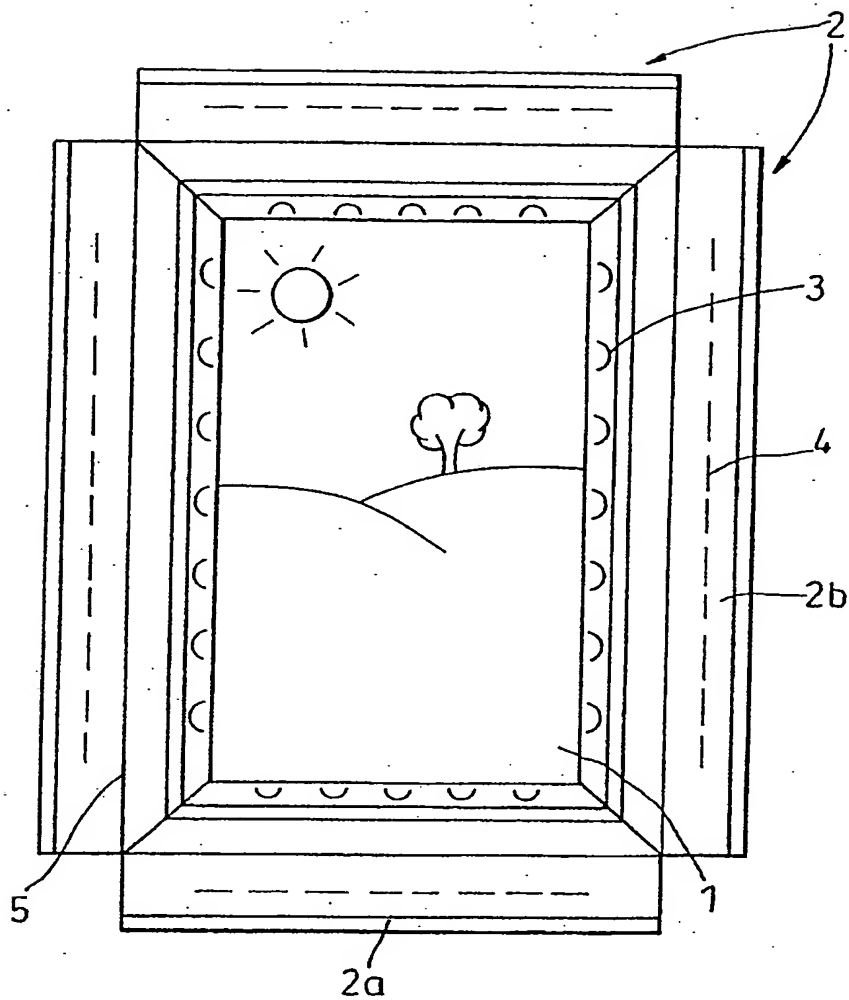


Fig. 1

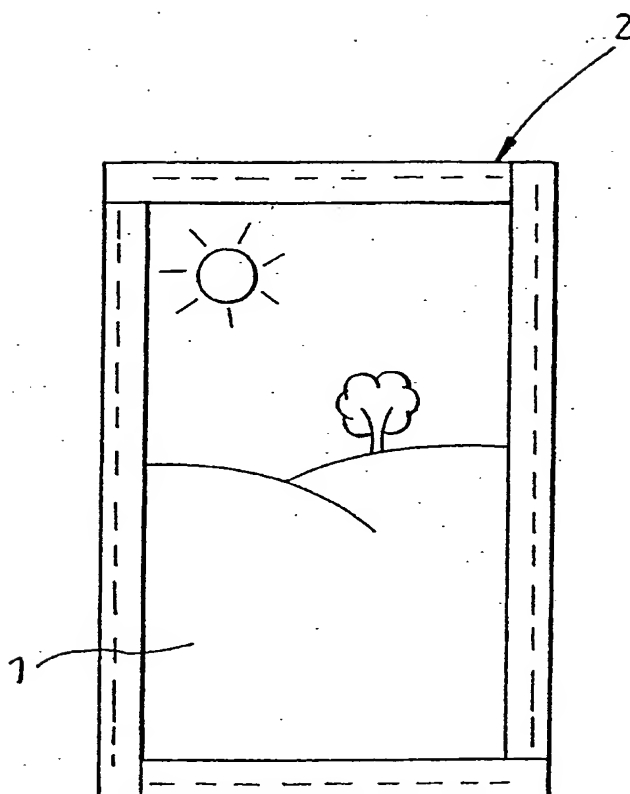


Fig. 2



EV 436814436 US



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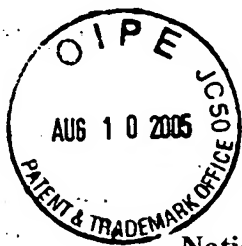
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National Phase Application 006329-00005

ATTY: PDM

Applicant: Sarah Gredley

Filing Date: January 12, 2005

Entitled: PICTURE FRAME

The following has been received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon:

DT07 Rec'd PCT/PTO 12 JAN 2005

- ☒ Certificate of Express Mailing (1 Page)
- ☒ Fee Transmittal (1 Page)
- ☒ Petition To Revive with Exhibit (3 Pages)(Exhibit 15 Pages)
- ☒ 35 U.S.C. 371 Application for Patent Cover Sheet (2 Pages)
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment (8 Pages)
- ☒ Patent Application (13 Pages) and Drawings (2 Pages)
- ☒ Copy of PCT Application (15 Pages)
- ☒ Application Data Sheet (2 Pages)
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Express Mail No.: EV 436814436 US

Dated: January 12, 2005

10/521139

Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE
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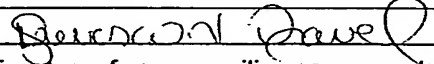
Date	12 January 2005
International Application No.	PCT/GB03/02228
Attorney Docket No.	006329. 00005

I. Certification under 37 CFR 1.10 (if applicable)

EV 436814436 US
Express Mail mailing number

12 January 2005
Date of Deposit

I hereby certify that the application/correspondence attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop PCT, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Signature of person mailing correspondence

Devora Gavel
Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence

II. ☐ New International Application

TITLE	Picture Frame	Earliest priority date (Day/Month/Year)
		23 May 2002

SCREENING DISCLOSURE INFORMATION: In order to assist in screening the accompanying international application for purposes of determining whether a license for foreign transmittal should and could be granted and for other purposes, the following information is supplied. (Note: check as many boxes as apply):

- A. ☐ The invention disclosed was not made in the United States.
 B. ☐ There is no prior U.S. application relating to this invention.
 C. ☐ The following prior U.S. application(s) contain subject matter which is related to the invention disclosed in the attached international application. (NOTE: *priority to these applications may or may not be claimed on form PCT/RO/101 (Request) and this listing does not constitute a claim for priority*)

application no.		filed on	
application no.		filed on	
application no.		filed on	
application no.		filed on	

- D. ☐ The present international application ☐ is identical to ☐ contains less subject matter than that found in the prior U.S. application(s) identified in paragraph C above.
 E. ☐ The present international application ☐ contains additional subject matter not found in the prior U.S. application(s) identified in paragraph C above. The additional subject matter is found on page 16, 42, 43 and ☒ DOES NOT ALTER ☐ MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO ALTER the general nature of the invention in a manner which would require the U.S. application to have been made available for inspection by the appropriate defense agencies under 35 U.S.C. 181 and 37 CFR 5.1. See 37 CFR 5.15.

III. ☐ A Response to an Invitation from the RO/US. The following document(s) is(are) enclosed:

- A. ☐ A Request for An Extension of Time to File a Response
 B. ☐ A Power of Attorney (General or Regular)
 C. ☐ Replacement pages:

pages		of the request (PCT/RO/101)	pages		of the figures
pages		of the description	pages		of the
pages		of the claims			

- D. ☐ Submission of Priority Documents
 E. ☐ Fees as specified on attached Fee Calculation sheet form PCT/RO/101 annex

IV. ☐ A Request for Rectification under PCT Rule 91 ☐ A Petition ☐ A Sequence Listing Diskette

V. ☒ Other (please identify): National Phase Application

The person signing this form is the: ☐ Applicant ☒ Attorney/Agent (Reg. No. 29,411) ☐ Common Representative

Typed name of	Peter D. McDermott	Signature	
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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Effective on 12/08/2004.
Fees pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (H.R. 4818).

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2005

Complete if Known

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 750.00

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Sarah Gredley
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket No.	006329.00005

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ None ☐ Other (please identify) : _____

☒ Deposit Account Deposit Account Number: 19-0733 Deposit Account Name: Banner & Witcoff, LTD.

For the above-identified deposit account, the Director is hereby authorized to: (check all that apply)

☒ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee

☐ Charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) ☒ Credit any overpayments

Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING, SEARCH, AND EXAMINATION FEES

Application Type	FILING FEES		SEARCH FEES		EXAMINATION FEES		Fees Paid (\$)
	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)	
Utility	300	150	500	250	200	100	_____
Design	200	100	100	50	130	65	_____
Plant	200	100	300	150	160	80	_____
Reissue	300	150	500	250	600	300	_____
Provisional	200	100	0	0	0	0	_____

2. EXCESS CLAIM FEES

Fee Description		Small Entity	
Fee Description	Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)	Fee (\$)
Each claim over 20 (including Reissues)	50	25	
Each independent claim over 30 (including Reissues)	200	100	
Multiple dependent claims	360	180	
Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____ -20 or HP= _____	x _____	= _____	
HP = highest number of total claims paid for, if greater than 20.			
Indep. Claims	Extra Claims	Fee (\$)	Fee Paid (\$)
_____ - 3 or HP= _____	x _____	= _____	
HP = highest number of independent claims paid for, if greater than 3.			

3. APPLICATION SIZE FEE

If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper (excluding electronically filed sequence or computer listings under 37 CFR 1.52(e)), the application size fee due is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).

<u>Total Sheets</u>	<u>Extra Sheets</u>	<u>Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof</u>	<u>Fee (\$)</u>	<u>Fee Paid (\$)</u>
_____ - 100 = _____	/ 50 = _____	(round up to a whole number) x	= _____	

4. OTHER FEE(S)

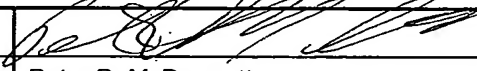
Non-English Specification, \$130 fee (no small entity discount)

Other (e.g., late filing surcharge) : Petition to Revoke

Fees Paid (\$)

\$1,500.00

SUBMITTED BY

Signature		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	29,411	Telephone	617-720-9600
Name (Print/Type)	Peter D. McDermott			Date	January 12, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing this form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

006329.00005

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/GB03/02228

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
23 May 2003

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
23 May 2002

TITLE OF INVENTION

Picture Frame

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Sarah Gredley

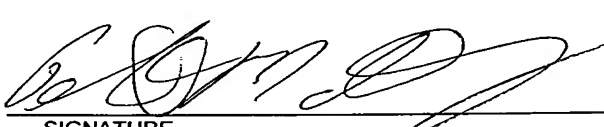
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76.
15. ☐ A substitute specification.
16. ☐ A power of attorney and/or change of address letter.
17. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825.
18. ☐ A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
19. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
20. ☐ Other items or information:

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public, which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 15 minutes to complete, including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB03/02228		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 006329.00005	
21. The following fees are submitted:				Applicant use	Office use only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee..... \$300.00				\$ 300.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee..... \$200.00				\$ 200.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee..... \$500.00				\$ 500.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$1000.00				\$1000.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.					
Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE		
14 - 100 =	0 /50 =		x \$250.00	\$	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	\$	
Total claims	24 - 20 =	4	x \$50.00	\$ 200.00	
Independent claims	- 3 =		x \$200.00	\$	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+ \$360.00	\$
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 1,200.00	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$ 600.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 600.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				+	\$
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 600.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				+	\$
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$	600.00
Amount to be refunded:					\$
Amount to be charged					\$ 600.00
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0733 in the amount of \$600.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0733 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Peter D. McDermott, Esquire Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.. 28 State Street, 28th Floor Boston, MA 02109					
				 SIGNATURE	
				Peter D. McDermott NAME	
				29,411 REGISTRATION NUMBER	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gredley, Sarah
Serial No.: Not yet assigned (continuation of PCT/GB03/02228)
Filed: (Concurrently Herewith)
Title: Picture Frame

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examining the subject application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

A listing of the claims presented in the application, including current amendments, begins on page 3.

Remarks begin on page 8.

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Preliminary Amendment

Page 1 of 8

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a 35 U.S.C. §371 National Phase filing of PCT Application No. PCT/GB03/022228 filed on May 21, 2003, which application claimed priority of GB 0211893.3 - 23 May filed 2002. The PCT application designated the United States and was published in the English language on 4 December 2003 as WO 03/099078

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Preliminary Amendment

CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject patent application.

Listing of Claims

1. (original) An apparatus for framing and/or hanging pictures which comprises one or more framing portions, wherein the or each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is adapted so as to have a first, unsecured, position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second, secured, position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.
2. (original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions.
3. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein one framing portion is provided and it is of a size such that in use it is placed along the top edge of the picture.
4. (original) The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.

Preliminary Amendment

5. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein two framing portions are provided and they are of a suitable size, such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture and the other is placed along the bottom edge of the picture.
6. (original) The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of one of the top or bottom edge of the picture.
7. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein four framing positions are provided, and they are of a size such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture, one is placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one is placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one is placed along the right hand edge of the picture.
8. (original) The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of one of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively.
9. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~ wherein in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets an adjacent end portion of an adjacent framing portion.
10. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein one

Preliminary Amendment

or more of the framing portions is provided with suitable means such that it may be hung from a wall.

11. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with securing means for securing the portion in its second, secured position in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

12. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the securing means are releasable securing means.

13. (original) The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with a releasable securing means comprising a flap and corresponding slit system.

14. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in the shape of a regular three-dimensional shape.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 further comprising a picture to which the or each framing portion is attached.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim[s] 1 [~~to 14~~] further comprising a backing portion to which the or each framing portion is attached.

Preliminary Amendment

17. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein a packaging means is provided integrally with the apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture.

18. (original) The apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the packaging means is made from a flexible material and is adapted to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is formed into a package.

19. (original) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the packaging means is secured in the second position by suitable releasable securing means.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus according to ~~any of claim[s] 17 [to 19]~~ wherein the flexible material of the packaging means in the first position forms a backing portion for the or each framing portion, and in a second position forms a package around the or each framing portion for storage and transportation.

21. (original) A framed picture which comprises one or more framing portions according to claim 1 attached to one or more edges of a picture.

22. (original) A framed picture according to claim 21 wherein the or each framing portion of the framed picture is, in use, in its second, secured position such that the or each edge of

Preliminary Amendment

the picture having a framing portion attached is provided with a frame border in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

23. (currently amended) The framed picture according to claim 21 ~~or claim 22~~ wherein the framed picture is provided with four framing portions; such that each edge of the picture is provided with a framing portion.

24. (original) A method of framing a picture, which method comprises attaching one or more framing portions as described above to a picture, with the or each framing portion being located at an edge of the picture.

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REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

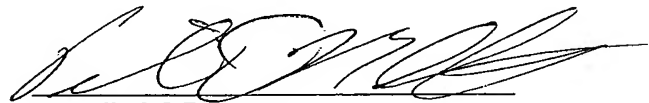
Upon entry of the foregoing amendments claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Gredley

Dated: January 12, 2005



Peter D. McDermott
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,411
Customer No. 22910

Preliminary Amendment

PICTURE FRAME

The present invention relates to framing and hanging pictures.

It is well known to frame pictures, including prints, posters and photos, to improve the aesthetics of the picture and to provide means by which the picture may be hung on a wall. However, many of the frames currently available are relatively expensive due to the precise work involved in producing a suitably shaped frame. Further, in order to provide support for the picture to enable it to be hung on a wall, frames are generally produced from rigid materials such as wood and metal, and accordingly storage and transportation of frames is limited by the fixed shape of the frame. This affects not only the frame itself as originally produced but also the framed picture if it is later desired to transport the framed picture.

Accordingly, there is a need for a picture framing and hanging system which is relatively inexpensive and easy to transport.

According to a first embodiment, the present invention provides an apparatus for framing and/or hanging pictures which comprises one or more framing portions, wherein the or each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is adapted so as to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

In the first position, the or each framing portion can easily be stored and transported. As the framing portion is made from flexible material, it can easily be bent, rolled or folded as required to enable ease of storage or transportation.

In the second, secured position, the or each framing portion has a fixed shape which is three-dimensional. This provides the or each framing portion with a degree of rigidity and strength that results in the or each framing portion being

able to provide sufficient support for a picture in order to enable it to be hung on a wall.

Preferably, the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions. When one framing portion is provided, it should be of a size such that in use it can be placed along the top edge of the picture. Preferably it is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.

When two framing portions are provided, they should be of a suitable size, such that in use one can be placed along the top edge of the picture and the other can be placed along the bottom edge of the picture. Preferably they are of a size such that in use they run along all or substantially all of the length of the top and bottom edge of the picture respectively.

When four framing portions are provided, they should be of a size such that in use one can be placed along the top edge of the picture, one can be placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one can be placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one can be placed along the right hand edge of the picture. Preferably they are of a size such that in use they run along all or substantially all of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively. Preferably in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets, and is most preferably secured to, an adjacent end portion of the adjacent framing portion. This assists in providing the apparatus with suitable strength and rigidity to support a picture when hung on the wall as well as increasing the aesthetics of the apparatus.

It is preferred that one or more of the framing portions is provided with suitable means such that it may be hung from a wall. For example, one or more holes or other such recesses may be provided. This allows the framing portion to be hung from a wall by means of picture hooks, nails, screws or the like protruding from the wall. Clearly such holes or recesses should be located along the length of the framing portion such that when they are used to hang the framing portion from a wall the framing portion hangs straight. For example, one hole may be provided at the centre of the length of the framing portion or two holes may be provided

equidistant from the centre of the length of the framing portion. Any other suitable means as known in the art for hanging frames from walls may also be used.

Preferably, the framing portion is provided with securing means for securing the portion in its second, secured position in the shape of a three-dimensional shape. Preferably, releasable securing means are used. Releasable securing means as known in the art may suitably be used, for example the framing portion may be provided with a flap and corresponding slit system. Any suitably shaped and sized flaps may be used; the flaps may be, for example, semi circular, triangular or rectangular. The framing portion could alternatively be suitably provided with corresponding sets of male and female components such as press studs that may be releasably secured together. Preferably, the securing means are spaced regularly along the length of the framing portion.

Preferably, the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in the shape of a regular three-dimensional shape. For example, the or each framing portion may be a triangular prism, circular prism or rectangular prism shape when in its second, secured position. When there is more than one framing portion, each framing portion may be the same or different shape in its second, secured position; preferably they are all of the same shape. The or each framing portion may be provided with score lines to assist the folding of the portion into the three-dimensional shape.

The or each framing portion may be made of any suitable flexible material. For example, the or each framing portion may be made of a flexible plastics material such as a polypropylene or a flexible material such as cardboard.

In use, the or each framing portion may be attached directly to the picture which it is framing. Accordingly the apparatus of the first embodiment may further comprise a picture to which the or each framing portion may be attached.

Alternatively, the or each framing portion may be attached to a backing portion, with the picture being framed being secured to the backing portion. Accordingly, the apparatus of the first embodiment may further comprise a backing portion, for example a piece of cardboard or paper, to which the or each framing portion may be attached.

The or each framing portion may be attached to the picture or to the backing portion by any suitable means, for example by means of adhesive. The or each framing portion of the apparatus of the first embodiment may therefore be provided with attaching means, for example a layer of cured or substantially cured adhesive covered with a protective removable layer which can be removed when adhesion is required.

The or each framing portion is attached to the picture or backing portion at the part of the framing portion which in the second, secured position, is the base of the three-dimensional shape.. The picture with attached framing portion(s) or the backing portion with attached framing portion(s) can easily be stored or transported by placing the or each framing portion into its first, unsecured position. Due to the flexibility of the material of the or each framing portion, the or each framing portion together with any picture or backing portion can be rolled up so as to fit in, for example, a tubular packaging for storage or transportation.

A packaging means may be provided integrally with the apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture. The packaging means may be made from a flexible material and is adapted to have a first position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is formed into a package.

Preferably the flexible material is one of the materials as described in relation to the framing portions. The packaging means is preferably secured in the second position by any suitable releasable securing means. For example a zip (metal or plastic), male and female connectors or a flap 15 and corresponding slit system.

The package formed is preferably tubular, the flexible material of the packaging means is preferably releasably or permanently secured to the framing portions. The flexible material of the packaging means may in the first position form a backing portion for the framing portion(s), and in a second position form a tubular package around the framing portions for storage and transportation.

When the picture with attached framing portion(s), or the backing portion with attached framing portion(s) which may have a picture secured thereto, is to be hung on a wall, the or each framing portion is placed into its second, secured position by folding the flexible material of the framing portion into the three-dimensional shape and securing it in this position by means of the securing means provided. If the framing and/or hanging apparatus is integral with a packaging means then the packaging means is placed in the first position before the or each framing portion is placed in the first position.

According to a second embodiment of the present invention, a framed picture is provided which comprises one or more framing portions as described above attached to one or more edges of a picture. The framed picture may suitably comprise one framing portion attached to the top edge of the picture, or two framing portions attached to the top and bottom edges of the picture respectively, or four framing portions attached to the top, bottom, left hand and right hand edges of the picture respectively.

The or each framing portion of the framed picture is, in use, in its second, secured position such that the or each edge of the picture having a framing portion attached is provided with a frame border in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

At least one of the framing portions of the framed picture is provided with means for hanging the picture from a wall as described above. Preferably, at least the framing portion attached to the top edge of the picture is provided with such hanging means.

Preferably, the framed picture is provided with four framing portions, such that each edge of the picture is provided with a framing portion.

If it is desired to store or transport the framed picture of the second embodiment, the or each framing portion may be placed in its first, unsecured position by unsecuring the securing means and unfolding the portion so that it is in a substantially flat configuration. The framed picture can then be rolled up for easy

storage or transportation. Any packaging means can be secured in its second position as a package for the framed picture.

The present invention also provides a method of framing a picture, which method comprises attaching one or more framing portions as described above to a picture, with the or each framing portion being located at an edge of the picture.

The present invention will now be described in more detail with reference to the drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a diagram showing a picture framed using an apparatus according to the present invention, with the framing portions in their first, unsecured position; and

Figure 2 is a diagram showing the picture of figure 1 with the framing portions in their second, secured position.

Figures 1 and 2 show a picture 1 framed using a framing apparatus comprising four framing portions 2. The framing portions 2 are attached to the edges of the picture 1, with two shorter framing portions 2a being attached to the top and bottom edges of the picture and two longer framing portions 2b being attached to the left hand and right hand edges of the picture. The shorter framing portion 2a attached to the top edge of the picture is provided with a hole at the centre of its length, on the back, to allow the picture 1 to be hung from a wall.

The framing portions 2 are provided with semi-circular shaped flaps 3 and corresponding slits 4, and with scored lines 5. When the flaps 3 are not secured in the slits 4, as shown in figure 1, the framing portions 2 are flexible and may be substantially flat or may be bent or rolled.

Accordingly, in this first, unsecured, position the framed picture may be rolled up to allow ease of storage or transportation.

When the framing portions 2 are folded along the scored lines 5 and the flaps 3 secured in the slits 4, as shown in figure 2, the framing portions form rectangular

prism shaped frame edges around the picture 1. Accordingly, in this second, secured, position the framed picture is well supported and aesthetically pleasing, and may be hung from a wall using the hole provided in the back of the slot framing portion 2a located along the top edge of the picture 1.

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for framing and/or hanging pictures which comprises one or more framing portions, wherein the or each framing portion is made from a flexible material and is adapted so as to have a first, unsecured, position in which it can be freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second, secured, position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises one, two or four framing portions.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein one framing portion is provided and it is of a size such that in use it is placed along the top edge of the picture.
4. The apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of the top edge of the picture.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein two framing portions are provided and they are of a suitable size, such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture and the other is placed along the bottom edge of the picture.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of the length of one of the top or bottom edge of the picture.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein four framing positions are provided, and they are of a size such that in use one is placed along the top edge of the picture, one is placed along the bottom edge of the picture, one is placed along the left hand edge of the picture and one is placed along the right hand edge of the picture.
8. The apparatus according to claim 7 wherein each framing portion is of a size such that in use it runs along all or substantially all of one of the length of the top, bottom, the left hand and the right hand edge of the picture respectively.
9. The apparatus according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein in the second position an end portion of each framing portion meets an adjacent end portion of an adjacent framing portion.
10. The apparatus according to any preceding claim 1 wherein one or more of the framing portions is provided with suitable means such that it may be hung from a wall.
11. The apparatus according to any preceding claim 1 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with securing means for securing the portion in its second, secured position in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the securing means are releasable securing means.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the or each framing portion is provided with a releasable securing means comprising a flap and corresponding slit system.

14. The apparatus according to any preceding claim 1 wherein the or each framing portion is of a shape such that when in its second, secured position it is in the shape of a regular three-dimensional shape.

15. The apparatus according to any preceding claim 1 further comprising a picture to which the or each framing portion is attached.

16. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 14 further comprising a backing portion to which the or each framing portion is attached.

17. The apparatus according to any preceding claim 1 wherein a packaging means is provided integrally with the apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture.

18. The apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the packaging means is made from a flexible material and is adapted to have a first position in which it can be

freely moved from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is formed into a package.

19. The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the packaging means is secured in the second position by suitable releasable securing means.

20. The apparatus according to any of claims 17 to 19 wherein the flexible material of the packaging means in the first position forms a backing portion for the or each framing portion, and in a second position forms a package around the or each framing portion for storage and transportation.

21. A framed picture which comprises one or more framing portions according to claim 1 attached to one or more edges of a picture.

22. A framed picture according to claim 21 wherein the or each framing portion of the framed picture is, in use, in its second, secured position such that the or each edge of the picture having a framing portion attached is provided with a frame border in the shape of a three-dimensional shape.

23. The framed picture according to claim 21 or claim 22 wherein the framed picture is provided with four framing portions, such that each edge of the picture is provided with a framing portion.

24. A method of framing a picture, which method comprises attaching one or more framing portions as described above to a picture, with the or each framing portion being located at an edge of the picture.

ABSTRACT

An Apparatus for framing and/or hanging a picture (1) which comprises one or more framing portions (2). Each framing portion (2) is made from a flexible material. Each framing portion (2) is adapted so as to have a first position in which it can be freely removed from a substantially flat conformation to other conformations and a second position in which it is secured in the shape of a three-dimensional shape, by means such as flaps (3) and corresponding slits (4). The apparatus may be provided with an integral packaging means. Also provided is a framed picture (1) provided with four framing portions (2) such that each edge of the picture (1) is provided with a framing portion (2).

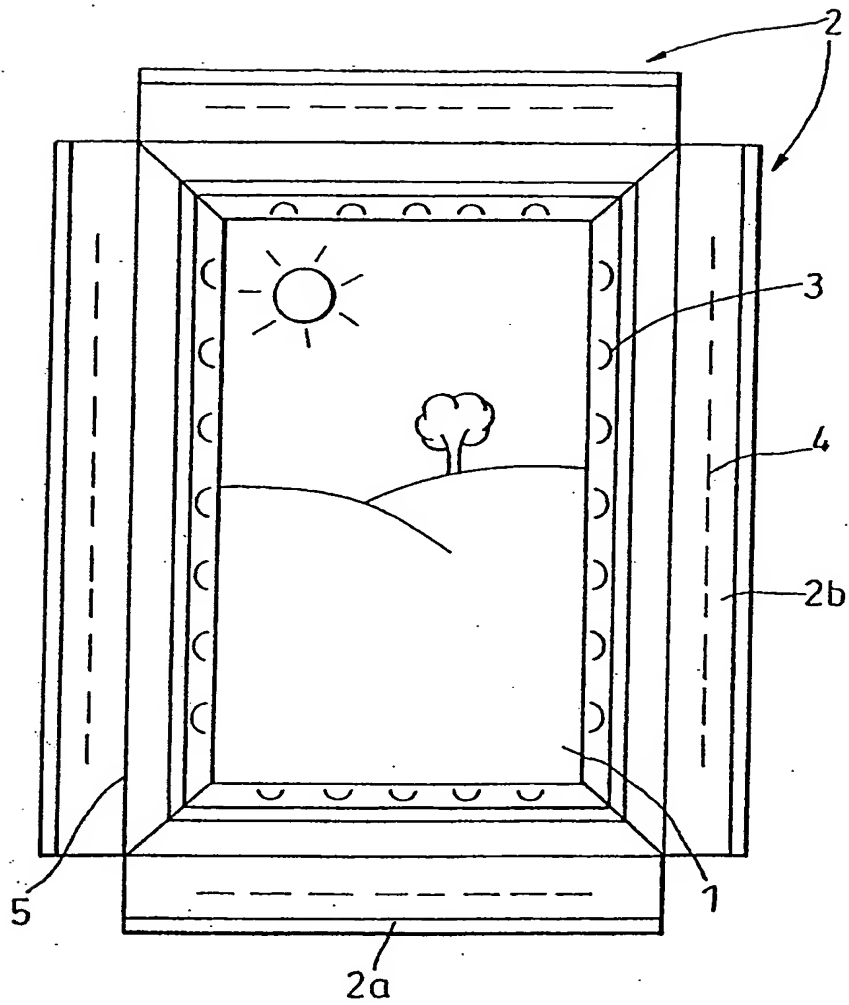


Fig. 1

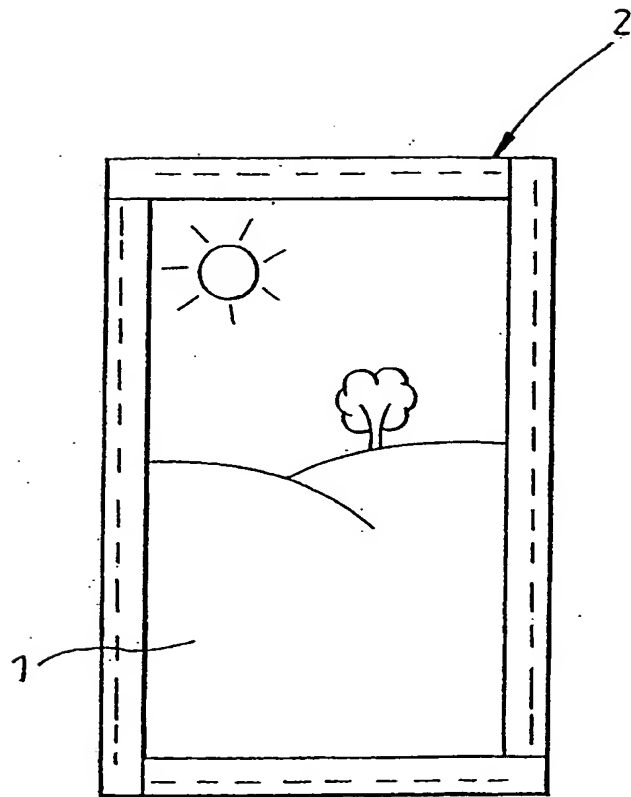


Fig. 2

Application Data Sheet

Application Information

Application number::
Filing Date::
Application Type:: Regular
Subject Matter:: Utility
Suggested classification::
Suggested Group Art Unit::
CD-ROM or CD-R?: None
Number of CD disks::
Number of copies of CDs::
Sequence submission?:
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?:
Number of copies of CRF::
Title:: PICTURE FRAME
Attorney Docket Number:: 003259.00005
Request for Early Publication?: NO
Request for Non-Publication?: NO
Suggested Drawing Figure::
Total Drawing Sheets:: 2
Small Entity?: NO
Latin name::
Variety denomination name::
Petition included?: NO
Petition Type::
Licensed US Govt. Agency::
Contract or Grant Numbers::
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?: NO

Applicant Information

Applicant Authority Type:: Inventor
Primary Citizenship Country:: Portugal

Status:: Full Capacity
Given Name:: Sarah
Middle Name::
Family Name:: Gredley
Name Suffix::
City of Residence:: Odemira
State or Province of Residence::
Country of Residence:: Portugal
Street of mailing address:: Nespereira, Casa Nova da Cruz
Sao Teotonio
City of mailing address:: Odemira
State or Province of mailing address::
Country of mailing address:: Portugal
Postal or Zip Code of mailing address::

Correspondence Information

Correspondence Customer Number:: 22910

Representative Information

Representative Customer Number:: 22910

Foreign Priority Information

Country::	Application number::	Filing Date::	Priority Claimed::
This Application is A National Stage Of	PCT/GB03/02228	23 May 2003	Yes
Great Britain	GB 0211893.3	23 May 2002	Yes